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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

SHILDON

Urban District Council

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1938.

P. V. ANDERSON,

Acting for R. W. SMEDDLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit my report for the year 1938.

General Statistics.

Area, 5,035 acres.

Population, 13,850 (as estimated by the Registrar General).

Number of inhabited houses, 4,282.

Rateable value, £45,163.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £156.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are railway wagon repairing and coal mining.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

		TOTAL.	M.	F.	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	215	117	98	} Birth Rate 16·31
	{ Illegitimate	11	4	7	

		TOTAL	M.	F.
STILL BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	11	9	2
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—

DEATHS, 188 (of these 34 died outside the district).
Death Rate 13·57.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth, 4.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, per 1,000 births, 88. Legitimate, 19 ; Illegitimate, 1. Total, 20.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 6. Deaths from Whooping Cough, Nil. Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), Nil.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY. The water supply from the Durham County Water Board continues to be ample and of excellent quality.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drains and sewers continue to work in a satisfactory manner.

The Outfall Works continue to give excellent results.

Scavenging.

The scavenging of Shildon, Adelaide Colliery, Coppy Crooks, Fylands and Brusselton is being carried out in a satisfactory manner by direct labour.

Eldon, Old Eldon, Middridge and Eden Pit are scavenged by contract.

Most of the property in these areas have ash closets and privy ashpits, and it is expected that these will be converted to the water carriage system at an early date.

Schools.

The six elementary schools, each consisting of two departments, are up-to-date, airy, and well maintained.

Smoke Abatement.

The atmosphere is pure and clear, there being very little atmospheric pollution in the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The nearest Public Swimming Baths are situated at Eldon. They are open during the summer months and are kept in excellent condition.

Food Adulteration.

The sampling of food and drugs is carried out by the County Council's Weights and Measures Department.

Disinfestation.

During the year disinfestation was carried out on all property of the tenants prior to their moving in to new houses under the Council's "Clearance" and "Overcrowding" Scheme.

The property was removed and disinfested by Messrs. Cimex, Ltd. of Leeds, who are experts in this type of work.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. FEVER.

Cases of Fever are sent to Tindale Crescent Hospital, situated two miles from Shildon with accommodation for 107 cases.

2. SMALL-POX.

Cases of Small-pox are sent to Binchester Hospital, situated six miles from Shildon with accommodation for 80 cases.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health (part-time).
Sanitary Inspector (whole-time).

Nursing in the Home.

One Nurse is employed in the district, and is provided for by the local Nursing Association.

Midwives.

Two certified Midwives are practising in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

Three Ambulances are available in the area, one for infectious disease cases and two for emergency cases.

Laboratory Facilities.

Throat swabs, sputum and milk samples are bacteriologically examined at Kings College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Water samples are submitted for chemical analysis to C. Y. H. Stock, Public Analyst, 27, Victoria Road, Darlington.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a). MILK SUPPLY.

There are fourteen retail milk producing dairies in the area of which three hold Accredited Licences.

The farms are regularly inspected by the County Council Veterinary Inspector and by the Local Authority's Sanitary Inspector.

The standard maintained by the farmers is a high one, although certain improvements to the cowsheds, etc., are receiving the attention of the Public Health Department in order to bring them up-to-date.

(b). MEAT, ETC.

Regular inspections of the slaughter-houses and the market have been carried out during the year.

There are seventeen slaughter-houses in the area and the standard of animal slaughtered is found to be very high.

Deaths, at ages specified, in 1938 from
all causes.

Causes of Death.		All Ages	Under 1 year	1— 2	2— 5	5— 15	15— 25	25— 45	45— 65	Over 65
All Causes	{ Certified	179	19	4	2	4	4	23	41	82
	{ Uncertified	9	1					2	3	3
Other digestive diseases ...		2							1	1
Acute or chronic nephritis		6						1	2	3
Puerperal sepsis ...		1						1		
Other puerperal diseases ...		3						3		
Congenital debility, &c. ...		10	10							
Suicide ...		4							3	1
Other violence ...		4		1			1			2
Other defined diseases ...		12							2	10
Ill-defined or N.K. ...		2						1		1
Diabetes ...		4							1	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.		16						1	6	9
Heart disease ...		40	1			2		5	13	19
Other circulatory diseases		24						3	4	17
Bronchitis ...		9	3				1		2	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...		4	3							1
Other respiratory diseases		1								1
Appendicitis		2				1	1			
Measles ...		6	2	3		1				
Scarlet fever ..		1			1					
Influenza ...		5						2	2	1
Encephalitis lethargica		1							1	
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system		7	1				1	4	1	
Other tuberculosis ...		1			1					
Cancer ...		23						4	6	13
Totals ...		188	20	4	2	4	4	25	44	85

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following clinics and treatment centres are available for dealing with patients from the district.

<i>Nature of Clinic or Centre.</i>	<i>Name and Situation</i>	<i>Nature of Accommodation</i>	<i>By whom provided</i>
Maternity & Child Welfare Centre	Soho St. Sbildon	Provides for Consultation and treatment once weekly	Durham County Council
School Clinic	" Ninefields " Bp. Auckland	Provides for Consultation and treatment twice weekly	do.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	do.	do.	do.

Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ...	119	119	1
Diphtheria ...	62	62	Nil
Enteric Fever ..	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia .	12	Nil	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	5	1
Erysipelas ...	9	Nil	Nil

The incidence of the main infectious diseases according to age groups is shown in the following table :—

<i>Disease</i>	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Totals
Scarlet Fever		15	14	13	13	47	11	3	1		2		119
Diphtheria			7	1	4	24	12	7	5	1	1		62
Pneumonia						1			4	2	5		12
Puerperal Pyrexia									5				5
Erysipelas										2	6	1	9

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0						1		
1							1	
5			2	2				
10			1	2				
15		1						
20	1				1			
25					1			
35	1	1			2	1		
45					1			
55								
65 and upwards }								
Totals	2	2	3	4	5	2	1	—

Housing.

Eighteen houses were built during 1938 by private enterprise.

During the year 71 of the 100 new houses have been erected on the Sunnydale Estate with the Council's Slum Clearance and Overcrowding Scheme.

The Houses consist of 14 bungalows. 20 two-bedroom type, 10 three-bedroom (small) type, 40 three-bedroom (large) type, and 16 four-bedroom type.

It is expected that during the next year most of the present insanitary areas will be replaced by further new houses under the Council's Slum Clearance Schemes. Included in the new area were clearance orders for Coppy Crooks, South Durham Cottages and Office Row, Busty.

A scheme has been prepared by the Council for the building of a further 20 houses to re-house this area and will be commenced with shortly.

The following is a summary of the housing statistics for the year.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 579
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 590
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 351
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 360
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 210
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 135

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the serving of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	9
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	---

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | 16 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts : —

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | 5 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | | Nil |
| 2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | Nil |

E. Proceedings under Sections Sub-section 2 of Section 154 Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... | Nil |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|

2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... Nil
4. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. Nil

F. Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936—

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... Nil
4. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
5. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

P. V. ANDERSON,

Acting for R. W. SMEDDLE.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1938

FOR THE

Urban District of Shildon

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901

and the Factories Act, 1937

(which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938),

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	10	Nil	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	5		
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises). ...	Nil		
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total ...	15		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)				
Overcrowding (S.2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) { insufficient ... unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total				

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.

(Section 108 of Act of 1901 ; Section 111 of Act of 1937).

NATURE OF WORK	Instances	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c.			
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Brass and brass articles			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, &c.			
Artificial flowers			
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquets and tennis balls			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c.			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers			
Christmas stockings, &c.			
Textile weaving			
Total			

Nil

(Signed) P. V. ANDERSON,

Acting for R. W. SMEDDLE.

June, 1939.

